

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

200 W. Washington, Suite 301
Indianapolis, IN 46204
(317) 233-0696
<http://www.in.gov/legislative>

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6790

BILL NUMBER: HB 1186

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 27, 2012

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Paramedic Licensing.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Brown T

FIRST SPONSOR: Sen. Miller

BILL STATUS: As Passed House

FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL
X DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: *Licensing of Paramedics*- The bill provides for the licensing of paramedics by the Emergency Medical Services Commission (EMSC). The bill establishes qualifications and requirements for a licensed paramedic.

B Misdemeanor- The bill makes it a Class B misdemeanor to practice as a paramedic without a license.

Rollover of Certifications- The bill provides for the transition from paramedic certification to licensing.

Conforming Changes and Definitions- The bill makes conforming changes. The bill replaces definitions of "paramedic" with definitions of "licensed paramedic". The bill makes technical corrections.

Effective Date: July 1, 2012.

Explanation of State Expenditures: *Licensing of Paramedics*- The EMSC currently certifies paramedics and would likely be able to administer paramedic licensing within their existing level of resources. The EMSC is scheduled for six regular and six technical advisory committee meetings during CY 2012. Application forms would have to be changed to reflect licensing instead of certification. However, with the availability of forms online, changes would likely not result in large printings of hard copy application forms.

Explanation of State Revenues: *Licensing of Paramedics*- State revenues would increase with the establishment of a license fee. (The EMSC currently does not charge a fee for the certification of paramedics. Although, there is a late reinstatement fee of \$50.) How much revenue would be generated from licensing would

depend on the fee adopted by the EMSC and the number of persons applying. Fee revenue would, at least in the first year of implementation, be generated solely from new initial licenses only. (Current certifications would be considered licensed until their date of expiration.) The bill does not provide for a specific fund for fee revenue. Therefore, license fees would be deposited in the state General Fund. (Typically, fees from other licensed professions are deposited into the General Fund.) Licenses would be valid for two years.

B Misdemeanor- If additional court cases occur and fines are collected, revenue to both the Common School Fund (from fines) and the state General Fund (from court fees) would increase. The maximum fine for a Class B misdemeanor is \$1,000. However, any additional revenue would likely be small.

Civil Penalty- The EMSC would be able to impose a civil penalty of up to \$500 for any licensed paramedic who commits an act or makes an omission constituting gross negligence arising from practice as a paramedic. Civil penalties collected under this provision would be placed in the state General Fund.

Background Information- The Department of Homeland Security has record of approximately 3,000 paramedic certifications in Indiana. The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports there were 5,680 EMTs and paramedics employed in Indiana during 2010.

Explanation of Local Expenditures: *B Misdemeanor-* A Class B misdemeanor is punishable by up to 180 days in jail.

Explanation of Local Revenues: *B Misdemeanor-* If additional court actions occur and a guilty verdict is entered, local governments would receive revenue from court fees. However, any change in revenue would likely be small.

State Agencies Affected: EMSC under the Indiana Department of Homeland Security.

Local Agencies Affected: Trial courts, local law enforcement agencies.

Information Sources: Mara Snyder, Indiana Department of Homeland Security; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics OES Report, May 2010; 836 IAC 4-9-4.

Fiscal Analyst: Chris Baker, 317-232-9851.